## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for enterprise resource management (ERM), said method comprising:

executing ERM software for managing internal resources of a company/business in an ERM system;

selectively authorizing users associated with the company/business based on grouping designations of the users to access internal resource data about the company/business via the ERM software and an ERM database; and

managing, distributing, tracking, organizing, analyzing, and storing internal resource data via the ERM software.

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- 2. An enterprise resource management (ERM) system, said system comprising:
  - a computer useable medium; and
  - a computer device having a processor;

wherein said computer useable medium carries thereon ERM software, which, when executed by the processor, causes the processor to carry out steps comprising:

executing ERM software for managing internal resources of a company/business in an ERM system;

selectively authorizing users associated with the company/business based on grouping designations of the users to access internal resource data about the company/business via the ERM software and an ERM database; and

managing, distributing, tracking, organizing, analyzing, and storing internal resource data via the ERM software.

3. A computer useable medium carrying enterprise resource management (ERM) software which, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to carry out steps comprising:

executing ERM software for managing internal resources of a company/business in an ERM system;

selectively authorizing users associated with the company/business based on grouping designations of the users to access internal resource data about the company/business via the ERM software and an ERM database; and

managing, distributing, tracking, organizing, analyzing, and storing internal resource data via the ERM software.

4. The computer useable medium according to claim 3, wherein said ERM software, when executed by the processor, further causes the processor to carry out steps comprising:

establishing administrator ERM software restrictively accessible by only qualified administrators; and

establishing general user ERM software accessible by general users.

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5. The computer useable medium according to claim 4, wherein said ERM software, when executed by the processor, further causes the processor to carry out steps comprising:

manually adding a new user into the ERM database;

updating user information for a particular user and making any desired changes to profile information for the particular user;

flagging a particular user by marking profile information for the particular user in a predetermined manner;

viewing applications from users desiring to become a member of the ERM system for the company/business;

verifying profiles of applicants seeking membership into the ERM system for the company/business;

viewing a distribution group of a particular user; assigning a manager to a distribution group; grouping users into specific categories;

adding a parent or child grouping to an organizational chart of a distribution group;

viewing properties of an organizational distribution group; modifying an existing distribution group; and

changing a grouping structure regarding a position of a distribution group.

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6. The computer useable medium according to claim 3, wherein said establishing general user ERM software step further comprises:

accepting general user personal information entered into form fields;

creating a general user login account and an application for acceptance by a general user;

validating an application by a general user for acceptance into the ERM system;

granting acceptance for a general user into the ERM system;

denying acceptance for a general user into the ERM system;

enabling an accepted general user in the ERM system to view

ERM resources;

enabling an accepted general user in the ERM system to request ERM resources from the company/business;

enabling an accepted general user in the ERM system to obtain ERM resources from the company/business; and

enabling an accepted general user in the ERM system to buy ERM resources from the company/business.

The computer useable medium according to claim 3, 7. 1 said managing, distributing, 2 wherein tracking, organizing, analyzing, and storing internal resource data step 3 comprises: 4 5 obtaining resources for the ERM system of the company/business; 6 managing obtained resources; 7 distributing obtained resources to users of the ERM system 8 of the company/business; 9 tracking distributed resources; 10 organizing obtained resources; 11 analyzing obtained resources; and 12 13 storing internal resource data for obtained resources.

8. The computer useable medium according to claim 7, wherein said distributing obtained resources step further comprises:

raffling resources;

providing resources on a first come first serve basis;

reselling resources;

providing resources to a business network;

providing resources to charitable giveaways;

earmarking resources; and

freely providing resources.

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9. The computer useable medium according to claim 8, wherein said raffling resources step further comprises:

enabling users to apply for a resource being raffled in a raffle;

manually adding users into the raffle before the raffle is run;

canceling the raffle for the resource;

determining a winner for the resource being raffled; and

notifying the winner regarding winning a resource being raffled.

10. The computer useable medium according to claim 8, wherein said providing resources on a first come first serve basis step further comprises:

offering a resource to users on a first come first serve basis;

obtaining a request from a particular user for the offered resource;

reviewing the particular user and the offered resource;

determining whether to provide the particular user with the offered resource;

providing the offered resource to the particular user if a corresponding determination is made;

retaining the offered resource to the particular user if a corresponding determination is made; and

providing a survey/form to the particular user if the offered resource is provided.

11. The computer useable medium according to claim 8, wherein said reselling resources step further comprises:

placing a resource up for resale to users in a particular system where the users may buy them; and

tracking a resource after the resource is sold to a particular user.

12. The computer useable medium according to claim 8, wherein said providing resources to a business network step further comprises:

providing a resource in a business network; and tracking the resource after the resource is provided to the business network.

13. The computer useable medium according to claim 8, wherein said providing resources to charitable giveaways step further comprises:

offering a resource to charitable giveaways;

obtaining a request from a particular charitable giveaway for the offered resource; and

providing the offered resource to the particular charitable giveaway.

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14. The computer useable medium according to claim 8, wherein said earmarking resources step further comprises:

determining a suitability of a particular user to have access to an earmarked resource;

determining whether to provide the earmarked resource to the particular user or one other than the particular user;

notifying the particular user they will receive the earmarked resource if a corresponding determination is made;

providing the earmarked resource to the particular user if a corresponding determination is made; and

providing the earmarked resource to one other than the particular user if a corresponding determination is made.

15. The computer useable medium according to claim 8, wherein said freely providing resources step further comprises:

freely offering a resource to users;

determining a suitability of a particular user to have access to the free resource;

notifying the particular user they will receive the free resource if a corresponding determination is made;

providing the free resource to the particular user if a corresponding determination is made.

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The computer useable medium according to claim 3, 16. wherein said executing ERM software for managing internal resources of a company/business in an ERM system step further comprises:

providing inventory processes; providing distribution processes; providing reporting processes; providing maintenance processes; providing upgrading processes; providing user management processes; providing help and tutorial processes; and providing user communication and interaction processes. 12

The computer useable medium according to claim 16, 17. wherein said providing inventory processes further step comprises:

providing an inventory landing page; adding inventory the ERM database;

providing a resource identification to inventory added to the ERM database;

grouping inventory added to the ERM database; and earmarking inventory added to the ERM database;

attaching inventory added to the ERM database an event/resource category.

displaying inventory attached to an event/category category;

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modifying a resource or group of resources from the ERM database; and

deleting a resource or group of resources from the ERM database.

18. The computer useable medium according to claim 16, wherein said providing distribution processes step further comprises:

providing a distribution Landing page;

providing a Table of ITEMS page;

providing a Calendar of ITEMS page;

providing a Category SEARCH page;

providing a Type SEARCH page;

providing a Rules page; and

providing a Take ACTION OFF RULES PAGE RESULTS DISPLAYED page.

19. The computer useable medium according to claim 16, wherein said providing reporting processes step further comprises:

providing surveys/forms to users;

receiving surveys/forms from users;

reviewing surveys/forms received from users;

storing data regarding surveys/forms received from users;

obtaining quantitative/qualitative information from stored

data regarding surveys/forms received from users; and

providing reports for the company/business.

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20. The computer useable medium according to claim 16, wherein said providing maintenance processes step further comprises:

providing a MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT LANDING page; and providing a SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION page.

21. The computer useable medium according to claim 16, wherein said providing upgrading processes step further comprises:

providing a purchase and/or install upgrade page;
enabling the company/business to purchase new upgrades or
software for the ERM software; and

enabling the company/business to install upgrades locally.

22. The computer useable medium according to claim 16, wherein said providing user management processes step further comprises:

providing an administrative application support system page; and providing a TROUBLE TICKET SYSTEM page.

23. The computer useable medium according to claim 16, wherein said providing help and tutorial processes step further comprises:

providing a SEARCH HELP TOPICS page; providing SEARCH INDEX OF HELP TOPICS page;

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providing a support contact information page; providing a frequently asked Questions (FAQ) chart page; and providing an online tutorials page.

24. The computer useable medium according to claim 16, wherein said providing user communication and interaction processes step further comprises:

providing communication Landing page;

providing a Bulletin Board List page;

providing a VIEW BULLETIN BOARD ITEM page;

providing an ADD BULLETIN BOARD ITEM page;

providing an update Bulletin Board List page;

providing an APPROVE/DISAPPROVE BULLETIN page; and

providing a PUBLISH BULLETIN BOARD ITEM page.

25. The computer useable medium according to claim 3, wherein said selectively authorizing users step further comprises:

accepting general user personal information entered into form fields;

creating a general user login account and an application for acceptance by a general user;

validating an application by a general user for acceptance into the ERM system;

granting acceptance for a general user into the ERM system; and

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denying acceptance for a general user into the ERM system 12 enabling an accepted general user in the ERM system to view 13 ERM resources; 14 enabling an accepted general user in the ERM system to 15 request ERM resources from the company/business; 16 enabling an accepted general user in the ERM system to 17 obtain ERM resources from the company/business; 18 enabling an accepted general user in the ERM system to buy 19 ERM resources from the company/business; 20 connecting to an Active Directory (AD) structure of the 21 company/business; 22

obtaining information from the AD structure of the company/business Active Directory (AD) structure of the company/business; and

linking and replicating a user database of the company/business with the ERM database using a Software Development Kit (SDK).

26. The computer useable medium according to claim 3, wherein said executing ERM software step further comprises:

creating shipping labels using third party software;

shipping a resource to a new owner; and

tracking the shipped resource using third party tracking functions.

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27. The computer useable medium according to claim 3, wherein said executing ERM software step further comprises:

providing online payment and resale capability using third party software.

28. The computer useable medium according to claim 3, wherein said executing ERM software step further comprises:

providing an online alert application for linking to the ERM software to notify administrators of upcoming tasks and resources for action.

29. The computer useable medium according to claim 3, wherein said executing ERM software step further comprises:

producing a report that measures the usage of inventory and resources;

providing a GETSMART ANALYSIS TOOL for offering suggestions on management decisions regarding data in the ERM database; and

producing dynamic graphs and charts regarding data in the ERM database.

30. The computer useable medium according to claim 3, wherein said managing, distributing, tracking, organizing, analyzing, and storing internal resource data via the ERM software step further comprises:

providing inventory/schedule manager processes;

providing distribution manager processes;

providing site administrator processes;

providing system administrator processes; and

providing site assistant administrator processes;

providing report manager processes;

providing item manager processes;

providing human resource processes; and

providing general user processes.

31. The computer useable medium according to claim 30, wherein said providing inventory/schedule manager processes step further comprises:

procuring inventory based on statistics from the previous and current year;

reviewing archived data to calculate trends and demands;

analyzing current clients and targeting sales of the company/business to find out what kind of return can be made on specific resources;

reviewing patterns and tracking records of sales teams to determine how to optimize response from clients regarding business entertainment; and

providing links to outside resource(s) to assist users in making inventory decisions.

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making updates to the ERM software;

32. The computer useable medium according to claim 3, wherein said providing distribution manager processes step further comprises:

trafficking resources for the company/business; distributing resources; and

using, selling, or giving away inventory resources at particular times.

33. The computer useable medium according to claim 30, wherein said providing site administrator processes step further comprises:

updating account information for the company/business in the ERM system;

configuring the ERM system for upgrading via the Internet; authorizing any work to be done to the ERM system;

calling/placing a trouble ticket with a developer of the ERM software if the ERM software is not properly operating;

obtaining immediate service from the developer of the ERM software.

34. The computer useable medium according to claim 30, wherein said providing system administrator processes step further comprises:

troubleshooting and fixing software bugs within the ERM software;

performing upgrades to the ERM software;

installing patches on the ERM software;

running performance analysis software against the ERM software to ensure the ERM software is running at customer approved standards; and

updating and modifying database structures and data inside the ERM software.

35. The computer useable medium according to claim 30, wherein said providing site assistant administrator processes step further comprises:

utilizing temporary rights to fulfill roles of a distribution manager and an inventory manager until a site administrator returns.

36. The computer useable medium according to claim 30, wherein said report manager step further comprises

providing surveys/forms to users;

receiving surveys/forms from users;

reviewing surveys/forms received from users;

storing data regarding surveys/forms received from users;

obtaining quantitative/qualitative information from stored data regarding surveys/forms received from users; and

providing reports for the company/business.

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37. The computer useable medium according to claim 30 wherein said providing human resources manager processes step further comprises:

manually adding a new user into the ERM database;

updating user information for a particular user and making any desired changes to profile information for the particular user;

flagging a particular user by marking profile information for the particular user in a predetermined manner;

viewing applications from users desiring to become a member of the ERM system for the company/business;

verifying profiles of applicants seeking membership into the ERM system for the company/business;

viewing a distribution group of a particular user; assigning a manager to a distribution group;

grouping users into specific categories;

adding a parent or child grouping to an organizational chart of a distribution group;

viewing properties of an organizational distribution group; modifying an existing distribution group; and

changing a grouping structure regarding a position of a distribution group.

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38. The computer useable medium according to claim 30, wherein said providing general user processes step further comprises:

viewing resources within the ERM system that are available to a particular general user;

searching through an inventory of the ERM system for a particular resource;

applying for the particular resource;

selecting a shipment method to obtain the particular resource; and

paying for the particular resource using third party software.

- 39. Enterprise resource management (ERM) software for managing internal resources of a company/business, the ERM software being stored on a computer useable medium, and being configured in the form of first ERM software, second ERM software, third ERM software, fourth ERM software, and fifth ERM software.
- 40. The ERM software according to claim 39, wherein said first ERM software, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to carry out steps comprising:

storing all resources of a company in one place;

enabling only a single user to enter inventory into an ERM database of an ERM system;

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quantity and stock of specific events and resources; 8 9 accessing a central database; accessing a National Event Index Service; 10 accessing the Internet; and 11 utilizing reporting and management information systems, 12 educational materials, and basic customer support in a limited 13 14 manner. The ERM software according to claim 39, wherein said 41. 1 second ERM software, when executed by a processor, causes the 2 processor to carry out steps comprising: 3 storing all resources of a company in one place; 4 5 enabling only a single user to enter inventory into an ERM database of an ERM system; 6 7 creating a work group structure and defining branches and divisions in a company/business; 8 enabling an administrator of the company/business to email 9 groups about company/business resources; 10 tracking inventory entries into the ERM system or the . 11 quantity and stock of specific events and resources; 12 accessing a central database; 13

tracking inventory entries into the ERM system or

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accessing a National Event Index Service;

accessing the Internet; and

utilizing reporting and management information systems, educational materials, and standard customer support in a limited manner.

42. The ERM software according to claim 39, wherein said third ERM software, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to carry out steps comprising:

storing all resources of a company in one place;

enabling only a single user to enter the enter inventory into an ERM database of an ERM system;

creating a work group structure and defining branches and divisions in a company/business;

enabling an administrator of the company/business to email groups about company/business resources;

tracking inventory entries into the ERM system or the quantity and stock of specific events and resources;

accessing a central database;

accessing a National Event Index Service;

accessing the Internet for payment and shipping solutions;

providing a website for general users and enabling the general users to access general user ERM software from the website; and

utilizing reporting and management information systems, educational materials, and premier customer support.

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43. The ERM software according to claim 39, wherein said fourth ERM software, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to carry out steps comprising:

storing resources of a company;

enabling users to enter inventory into an ERM database of an ERM system;

creating a work group structure and defining branches and divisions in a company/business;

enabling an administrator of the company/business to email groups about company/business resources;

tracking inventory entries into the ERM system or the quantity and stock of specific events and resources;

accessing a central database;

accessing a National Event Index Service;

accessing the Internet for payment and shipping solutions;

providing a website for general users and enabling the general users to access general user ERM software from the website;

utilizing reporting and management information systems, educational materials, and premier customer support; and

providing an action alert system to display a real-time table of actions to be taken within the ERM system listing them from most critical to least critical.

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44. The ERM software according to claim 39, wherein said fifth ERM software, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to carry out steps comprising:

storing resources of a company;

enabling users to enter the enter inventory into an ERM database of an ERM system;

creating a work group structure and defining branches and divisions in a company/business;

enabling an administrator of the company/business to email groups about company/business resources;

tracking inventory entries into the ERM system or the quantity and stock of specific events and resources;

accessing a central database;

accessing a National Event Index Service;

accessing the Internet for payment and shipping solutions;

providing a website for general users and enabling the general users to access general user ERM software from the website;

utilizing reporting and management information systems, educational materials, and basic customer support in a limited manner;

providing an action alert system to display a real-time table of actions to be taken within the ERM system listing them from most critical to least critical; and

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reselling resources to an external business on a business resale network.

45. The ERM software according to claim 39, wherein said fifth ERM software, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to carry out steps comprising:

storing resources of a company;

enabling users to enter the enter inventory into an ERM database of an ERM system;

creating a work group structure and defining branches and divisions in a company/business;

enabling an administrator of the company/business to email groups about company/business resources;

tracking inventory entries into the ERM system or the quantity and stock of specific events and resources;

accessing a central database;

accessing a National Event Index Service;

accessing the Internet for payment and shipping solutions;

providing a website for general users and enabling the general users to access general user ERM software from the website;

utilizing reporting and management information systems, educational materials, and basic customer support in a limited manner;

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providing an action alert system to display a real-time table of actions to be taken within the ERM system listing them from most critical to least critical;

reselling resources to an external business on a business resale network; and

reselling any resource in the inventory of the company/business over the Internet on a central sight dedicated to business-to-business direct resale of internal company/business resources via a license.

- 46. A National Event Index Service (NEIS) comprising:
  a database including an event Table; an event Type Table; a venue Table;
  a RESTAURANTS TABLE; a LOCAL ATTRACTIONS TABLE; a SCORES/HIGHLIGHTS TABLE;
  and DIRECTIONS TABLES.
- 47. The NEIS according to claim 46, wherein interaction occurs between fields of the EVENT TABLE, EVENT TYPE TABLE, VENUE TABLE, RESTAURANTS TABLE, LOCAL ATTRACTIONS TABLE, SCORES/HIGHLIGHTS TABLE, and DIRECTIONS TABLES.
- 48. The NEIS according to claim 46, wherein said event table includes the fields event ID (pk), event name, event description, event type ID, event start date, event end date, event start time, event sale start, alternate venue ID, event lo temperature, event hi temperature, event weather, and event special day.

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TABLE includes the fields venue ID (PK), VENUE ID, VENUE ADDRESS 1, VENUE ADDRESS 2, VENUE CITY, VENUE STATE, VENUE ZIP, VENUE COUNTRY, VENUE TICKET PHONE, VENUE PHONE, VENUE IMAGE BIG FILE, VENUE IMAGE SMALL FILE, VENUE IMAGE BIG PATH, and VENUE IMAGE SMALL PATH.

51. The NEIS according to claim 46, wherein said RESTAURANTS TABLE includes the fields RESTAURANT ID (PK), RESTAURANT NAME, RESTAURANT ADDRESS 1, RESTAURANT ADDRESS 2, RESTAURANT CITY, RESTAURANT STATE, RESTAURANT ZIP, RESTAURANT COUNTRY, RESTAURANT PHONE, RESTAURANT RESERVATION TAKEN, RESTAURANT DESCRIPTION, RESTAURANT PICTURE, RESTAURANT DISTANCE FROM VENUE, and RESTAURANT DRESS CODE.

52. The NEIS according to claim 46, wherein said Local ATTRACTIONS TABLE includes the fields ATTRACTION ID (PK), ATTRACTION ADDRESS 1, ATTRACTION ADDRESS 2, ATTRACTION CITY, ATTRACTION STATE, ATTRACTION ZIP, ATTRACTION COUNTRY, ATTRACTION PRIMARY PHONE, ATTRACTION SECONDARY PHONE, ATTRACTION DESCRIPTION, ATTRACTION TYPE, and ATTRACTION DISTANCE FROM VENUE.

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53. The NEIS according to claim 46, wherein said scores/Highlights table includes the fields score ID (PK), PERIOD NUMBER, HOME TEAM SCORE, VISITOR TEAM SCORE, SPORTS STATISTICS ID, CURRENT CLOCK TIME, and OVERALL HIGHLIGHTS.

54. The NEIS according to claim 46, wherein said directions table includes the fields direction ID, venue ID, restaurant ID, Local attraction ID, from Local to Local, and direction overview.

55. The NEIS according to claim 46, further comprising a tracking tool for providing feedback to the NEIS regarding data access by users.

- 56. The NEIS according to claim 46, further comprising providing means for requesting events from the database over the Internet.
- 57. The NEIS according to claim 46, further comprising means for executing lookup calls on events based on names and identifications.